

# SPRING 2020



# ASPIRASI





# CONTENTS

EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR

●  
GET TO KNOW THE  
HIGH COUNCIL

●  
AN INSIDE LOOK ON  
MICHAEL SHIE: REGIONAL  
EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

●  
RECENT EVENTS FROM  
AUTUMN 2019 (INCLUDING  
FLAGSHIP EVENTS)

●  
WHAT IS HALAL / WHAT IS  
HARAM?

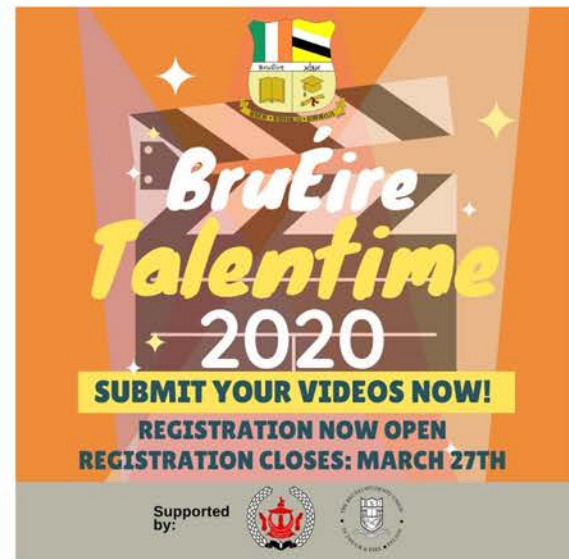
●  
STILL THINKING OF USING PLASTIC?  
HOLD THAT THOUGHT.



# EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR

## BRUEIRE TALENTIME 2020

Brunei Student Society in the Republic of Ireland (BruEire) present to you for the fourth year running - BruEire Talentime 2020! This year the theme is 'Inspiration'. All you have to do is submit a 1-minute video which fits the theme while ALSO showcasing your talents - all your videos will be posted on BruEire's Instagram Page.



## NORTH REGION HIKING TRIP

Date: 18th April 2020

Place: Mam Tor, Peak District National Park

The North East and North West Region under the Brunei Students' Union will initiate its first ever collaborative event this Easter, with a hiking trip in the Peak District! It is also open to all Bruneian Students across the United Kingdom and Eire!

## BSRS 2020: PARADIGM SHIFT

Date: 4th April 2020

Place: Royal School of Mines, Imperial College London

Brunei Postgraduate Society proudly announces that the Brunei Students' Research Symposium is back for the 7th time with the theme 'Paradigm Shift'. This is to reflect the power of transformative thinking towards modernity and relevance. Such a concept begins with novel perspectives and discoveries - and what better way to do this than through research! You will have the chance to listen and engage in presentations to exchange knowledge!



# SPRING

# 2020



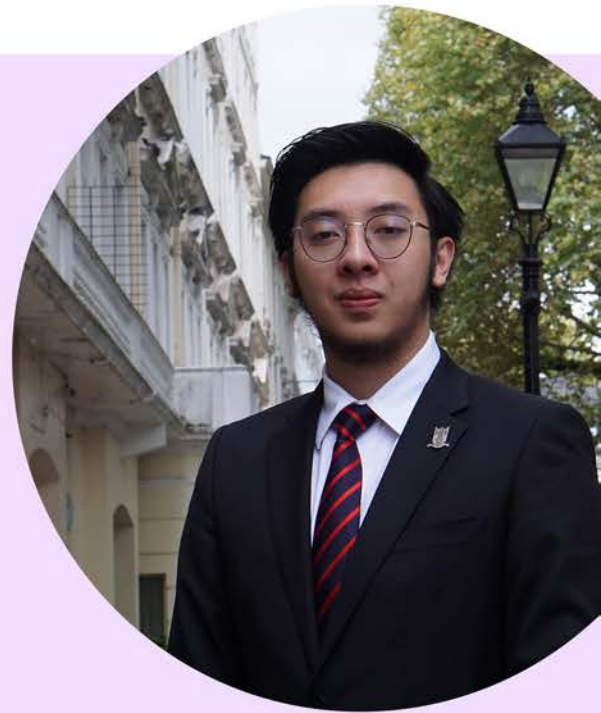


GET TO KNOW  
THE HIGH COUNCIL

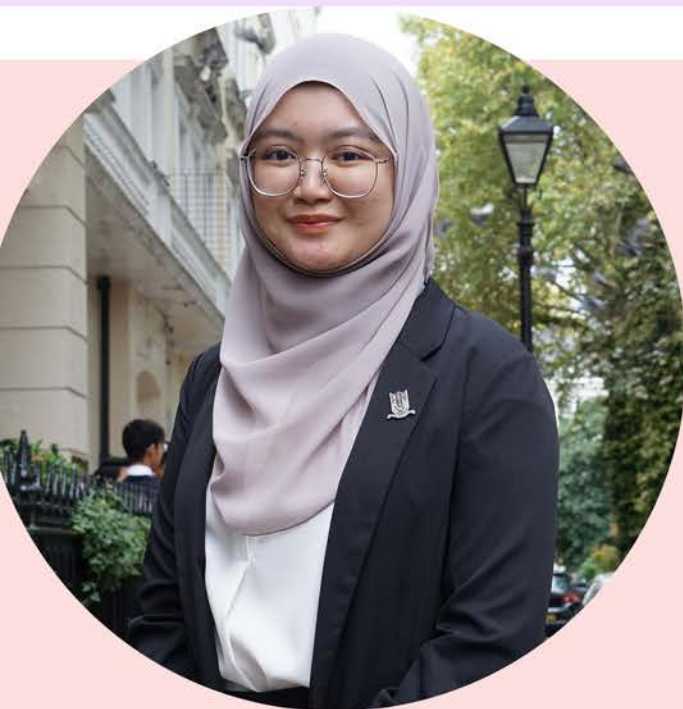


# HISYAM ZAINAL

The President of the Brunei Students' Union in the United Kingdom and Eire works closely with every agency in the UK such as the High Commission of Brunei Darussalam to the United Kingdom, the Brunei Student's Unit (UPP) in overlooking the welfare of the Brunei students. You will also work closely with every single member within the High Council and the leaders of BSUnion's sub-organisation, BruROSA, BPS and the Societies in organising events not just to maintain the interests, but also to foster unity and harmony of the students to make studying in the UK and Ireland, a memorable experience. This role ultimately challenges you as an individual in various different aspects, but the outcome is always rewarding.



**PRESIDENT**



**VICE PRESIDENT  
FOR  
ADMINISTRATION AND  
FINANCE**

# NURIN NABEELAH

The Vice President for Administration and Finance liaises closely with the Financial Secretary, mainly in terms of handling the paperwork for flagship events held by respective societies. Before I took this position, this was all I was told, and I never expected to have done so much more. This position has taught me many things, but there are two main things I have taken from this experience. I have learnt to be more patient, because things will inevitably go wrong, you cannot always please people and vice versa, but I have also equally acknowledged the importance of perseverance, because success may just be two steps away.

This role is perfect for those who want to expand their professional and people skills. It is also a great chance to network and meet new people, as BSUnion usually receives invitations to attend national events, such as Majlis Bersama Rakyat and Hari Belia Kebangsaan in Brunei. You also have the chance to change or start new things, even the littlest details.





## **GENERAL SECRETARY**

# **IQBAL EMRAN**

The General Secretary can be considered a flexible role. One main job that I do is writing minutes during meetings so I need to have my laptop every time. Whenever I am not able to go for a meeting, the Deputy General Secretary would cover my job. We both work closely as we assist others in doing their job for example creating online forms, writing formal letters or proposals.

For the past 10 months, I have been given a lot of big opportunities that I have never imagined before such as giving motivational talk at Sixth Form Centres and Santap with His and Her Majesty during Majlis Bersama Rakyat. Being heavily involved for big events really taught me a lot of things, ranging from personal skills development to gaining new knowledge.

# **AMEERAH FITRIAH**

As the Deputy General Secretary of BSUnion, I mainly help the General Secretary in taking minutes during meetings and act on behalf during his absence. As Iqbal mentioned, this role is really flexible, you should always be ready to assist any members with their tasks when needed. I learned to communicate better and thus improved my people's skills. Being part of BSUnion enabled me to meet and engage with different types of people.

From planning during meetings and then making it happen, it really takes a team to successfully host events. Sometimes you just have to be ready for back-to-back meetings. Last but not least, the memories I've made from being part of this council will be my biggest takeaway.



## **DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY**





# RABIAH JALIL

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY

As a Financial Secretary, I handle mostly the Financial matters, alongside Hisyam, the President, as well as Nurin Nabeelah, the Vice President for Administration and Finance. The three of us form a team which we call the Admin and Finance team. We deal with all affairs relating to the Flagship events that are being organized by the Bruneian Societies here in the UK. So, we are basically the bridge between the societies and the UPP as well as the Ministries in Brunei, mainly the Ministry of Education. Through this experience, I've learned more on how to deal with people, be it students from the societies, as well as the officers. This experience, I believe, will be very beneficial to me in whatever I do in life, as in life, we deal with people every single day.

As a BSU member, I've learned to become a team player. I've learned to follow orders when given tasks, no matter what they are. I've also learned to understand people more. Overall, the experience of being in BSU has been a rollercoaster to me, but I got through it all because I wasn't alone, I always had the BSU team who would help voluntarily with all the work, and for that, I am very grateful.

# ADLI RAZAK

Have you always wondered who runs the social media platform's for BSUnion as well as doing all the media stuff (editing, taking pictures etc)? Well that's my role, the Information Secretary!

I've always been interested of being part of BSUnion but I wasn't brave enough to apply for a role..... until now. Eventhough it's highly stressful, it's really worth it. This is because I've had the opportunity and the pleasure to work closely with officers from Unit Penuntut-Penuntut and also the High Comission of Brunei Darussalam to the United Kingdom, and really expand on my skills when it comes to photoshop and other media skills.

My proudest moment I can say is that I've presented my research in front of His Majesty and the Royal Family, to show my dedication to help Brunei in the future!



## INFORMATION SECRETARY



# HARITH SYAFIQ

Alongside 'Afifah, we are religious secretaries for BSUnion and are responsible for the religious activities of the Union.

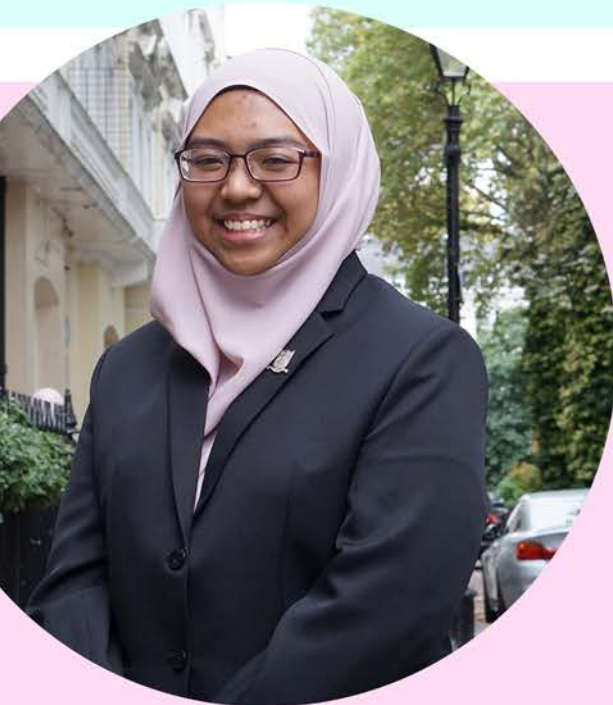
We are also president and vice president of BruROSA, an organisation which supervises the religious side of things in the UK.

Through this role, I have learnt a lot of skills including working in a group, learning the administrative side of conducting events, being able to present in front of an audience with the hopes of conveying a positive influence and being able to handle when the worst case scenarios in events rise.

Through this role, as well, I also have known a lot of friends, and have learnt valuable lessons from each one of them.



**MALE  
RELIGIOUS  
SECRETARY**



**FEMALE  
RELIGIOUS  
SECRETARY**

# 'AFIFAH MAT DANI

The role of Female Religious Secretary in BSU comes with the role of Vice President of BruROSA though these two consist of distinct responsibilities. Throughout this role, I've been working closely with Harith, the Male Religious Secretary as well as the President of BruROSA, doing the works he has explained. In BSU, we got to be more of a follower - contributing ideas and following orders while in BruROSA, we got to lead and delegate tasks to our very own team. Having to do both simultaneously allowed us to have a better consideration of others, be it when having to do the works others instructed us to or when having to assign them to others.

Personally this role gave me opportunities to discover my own potential and prove to myself that I'm able to do what I believe I could. In particular, quoting my speech on the day of election, "I want to reach out to as many people as possible to get themselves involve with the intention of gaining Allah's blessing together", I have got to know and bonded with a lot of amazing people throughout this journey so despite the workloads and difficulties we went through, I would say alhamdulillah, I feel content.



# ABDUL MUSAWWIR MAHLI

The role of a Postgraduate Secretary consists of primarily 3 fundamental responsibilities:

1. To look after the social welfare and well-being of Bruneian Students in the UK;
2. To represent the interest of Bruneian Postgraduate Students;
3. And to be the bridge/link between the BSunion and the BPS

In general, this role carries the responsibility of taking care and checking up on the students in the Union, giving advice where and when needed, as well directing any substantial problems to the welfare officer when necessary. This role also acts as the voice of the Postgraduate students, by voicing out their ideas, concerns and desires that would benefit the Union as a whole. Most importantly, this role is also responsible for giving students a platform to showcase their research and any other academia related activities. Lastly, as being part of both the BSunion and the BPS, the postgrad secretary is required and needed to be the bridge between both organizations by liaising between them and assisting both of them.

## POSTGRADUATE SECRETARY





# AN INSIDE LOOK ON MICHAEL SHIE: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR!



Over the course of six months, I have had the privilege to serve as Regional Executive of North East England, alongside outstanding and determined Society Leaders. We started the year off with a meeting in Brunei, where I reiterated the idea of "Authentic, Agile, and Accountable (AAA) Leadership".

Additionally, I introduced the "Regional Visits" initiative. This main aim of this initiative is to provide an intellectual and creative platform for critical discussion and the flourishing of ideas concerning the development of Brunei Darussalam towards "Wawasan 2035". To facilitate this aim, I conducted a tour around the North East constituencies and have visited Sheffield and Newcastle and look forward to visiting York and Leeds. At my visits thus far, I was warmly welcomed by the Society Leaders and Members. At each visit, I started off with a presentation relating to the AAA Leadership and Wawasan 2035, to which we then spent the rest of the time in an open discussion, as we pondered on our personal ambitions for the country. This provides an opportunity to start thinking while we are at University, of the role we will play as youths of Brunei Darussalam as we lead the development of the nation towards Wawasan 2035.







In Easter, North East England will collaborate with North West England to hold its inaugural Hiking Trip in the Peak District, with BruSheff hosting it. This joint effort will help strengthen the ties between both regions, further uniting us as we work with one another as Bruneians, and provide an opportunity for our respective members to build friendships.



With this, I extend my gratitude to BSU, Society Leaders and Society Members in North East England, for the work in building a 'home away from home', and for providing me with the opportunity to serve and work alongside you.

### **Michael Shie**

Brunei Students' Union Regional Executive of North East England (BruCastle, BruSheff, BruLeeds, BruYork, Durham and Middlesbrough) 2019/20





# RECENT EVENTS



# AUTUMN 2019



# SEPTEMBER

September, for most students is the month when they start their new semester, be it new students or returning ones. It is also where societies get to meet their new members and welcome them with freshers gatherings, with lunch, dinner as well as tours of the new cities that they'll be living in for a few years.



**Warm  
welcome  
to the  
Freshers!**



BruEx for example, held a freshers tour where their members visited a few landmarks which include Northernhay Gardens, Exeter Cathedral and the Quay while strolling around the city. After that, the members had lunch at Rockfish Restaurant and followed by desserts at Kaspas's..

In London on the other hand, ICUBS in collaboration with BrUCL we hosted their annual freshers' picnic to welcome new freshers studying here in London as well as other regions. For other societies like BruNI, they had multiple freshers' events like a Night Movie Out, where they went to see an Irish film at Movie House, Dublin Road.

All these activities allowed the new and existing members to get to know each other and bond. This is important as it creates harmonies between them.





# OCTOBER

October is usually the month when societies would hold ice breaking events for new juniors after settling down in the UK. Some societies would hold sightseeing trips around their city, some would hold gatherings in their universities. A few societies also held their annual general meetings in October to discuss their plans and goals for the new academic year, such as BruSCA and BruLancs.

The month was also filled with charity events and collaborations with respective Islamic Society (ISoc). BruKent participated in a few events to raise money for various charities, such as Charity Week Auction Dinner and Charity Week Games Night. ICUBS, with UPP's support, also collaborated with their university's Isoc and managed to raise over GBP80 by selling Malay kuih-muih.



Other than that, societies such as BruSheff are also active in holding sports meets. BruNotts and BruLeics have weekly to monthly sports sessions which take place throughout the year. Northern regions also organized trips; Brunei-Newcastle Society went on a hike to Nothumberlandia, Brunei Northern Ireland students went to Cave Hill and visited the Belfast Castle. The midlands region, namely BruLeics, BruWick and Brumingham went on their annual trip to IKEA in Coventry, along with BruCov.

Apart from these activities, UK students also enjoy having social and informal events, such as game nights and impromptu dinners complete with movies and karaoke. Most of these events aim to help students de-stress and cure homesickness, especially for freshers who are still getting used to the environment.

*hello october.*





# NOVEMBER



November was a colourful month, filled with many cultural events and beautiful views. BruLeics participated in University of Leicester's International Week, where they showcased Brunei's hidden treasures and promoted local delicacies. BruSEA celebrated their member's cooking skills by having a "Kaut Tah Naindah" night, roughly translating to "please help yourself", where

they ate good food and formed closer bonds. BruEssex also had the chance to sell buttermilk chicken with fried rice during their fundraising event in efforts to earn extra funding for their society. BruDonians joined their university's Malaysian Society in a Deepavali-themed potluck event, where they enjoyed food and designed a Diwali craft called a Rangoli. BruLiv experienced being in a Mamak stall while watching live streamed football, supporting their Malaysian Society's food sale. Truly, this was a month of celebrating diversity as well as our own country's gems.



Societies all over the UK and Eire had the chance to celebrate Maulud Nabi. Brunei Hall Student Committee (BHSC) celebrated by reciting Dikir Syarafil Anam for 12 nights, from 1st until 12th Rabiulawal. Other societies held solat jemaah, dikir and tahlil on the night of Maulud Nabi. BruROSA successfully organized their flagship event, Kem Ibadah 12, which was widely participated by students in November. This year's theme was "The Reconnection: Restoring Your Iman Network". It was a blessed 3-day camp, with team-building games and religious talks by Ustaz Isham and the volunteers working during the camp. Overall, it was a camp worth going to for a good spiritual cleansing and a reconnection to our Iman and faith. BruSton also held their first ever flagship event, which was the Quran Memorization Competition. There were two categories; One for Surah Lazim and one for Surah Yassin. This beautiful competition will hopefully be continued for years to come.



*Maulud Nabi Celebrations  
by societies across the UK  
and Ireland*



Apart from these two student associations, BruSCA in collaboration with BruSWANS also organized Comic Lah!, a competition where students can submit their own comics, either pictorial or drawn, based on given topics. One of its aims is to raise awareness for certain serious issues, such as mental health. All submitted comics will be compiled and made into a comic book.

The North-East regional executive, Michael Shie, also held a visit to Sheffield, where he met the society members and had lunch and an open discussion for what they can contribute to Wawasan 2035 using their fields of study. Michael Shie has made amazing efforts in bringing together our youth in the UK to work towards our country and His Majesty's vision. The BSUnion applauds him for his efforts.

Our students also enjoyed social events this month, from movie nights to Christmas market visits to ice skating. BruSheff had a 'Spooky Night' event, where their committee planned a Murder Mystery game. The members had to find clues to solve the mystery and find the murderer amongst them. BruKent members also had fun on their Winter Wonderland trip in London.



Winter's here!

Kem Ibadah  
XI





# DECEMBER

In December, students in the United Kingdom had their Christmas Break. A lot of students spend it by going to the Christmas Market as well as going ice skating, as they usually only have this during the Christmas season. BruLiv for example, went to their Christmas market with the Malaysian society in Liverpool and took this as an opportunity to bond with them. BruManch on the other hand, held their annual ice-skating event to celebrate the festive season and the end of the semester. The event was then followed by an informal dinner, where they had home-made nasi katok.



On the 7th of December, BruBath hosted BruEx and Brustol in Bath. The day started with bringing everyone to the University of Bath for a friendly race organized by their members with BruEx members going against Brustol. It was followed by lunch and a walk to the Royal Crescent where they took some photos. They then went to the Christmas market and had dinner together. The day ended with the presentation of the prize to the winner of the race in the morning.





And then on 9th December, BRUSCA held its first study session together, since in January they will have their exams. The event started after Maghrib prayers, where BRUSCA members gathered at Cardiff University Students Union. The format was having three 45-minute study sessions with a 15-minute break in between before a 45-minute dinner break and a final 45-minute study session. This was a good initiative to help and motivate each other to study.

In Nottingham, BruNotts held 'Freshers' Play' which is a tradition that they have had for the past years. This event encourages teamwork and communication as it requires the freshers to work together to come up with a play and perform it in front of the society. A theme was set for this event as well, where members who attend will need to dress up in Disney theme. The play was followed by dinner, some games, and a gift exchange session.



December is also the month in which His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei and the royal family come to London to meet Bruneians who are currently working, studying or having a holiday with their family here in the United Kingdom. This event was held at the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane in London. The event was started by a dua by the Mufti of Brunei's government, and then followed by a performance by the students. His Majesty the Sultan then delivered a titah which includes his emphasis on leadership skills of the students. The event then ended with a meet and greet where the Sultan and the royal family greeted the Bruneians there as well as took pictures with them.





## BRUROSА HOLDS 12TH ANNUAL KEM IBA- DAH

The Brunei Religious Officers Student Association (BruROSA) had recently held the annual Kem Ibadah, for three consecutive days, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 15th until 17th of November 2019 for Bruneian students studying in the United Kingdom and Ireland at Brunei Hall, London with its theme, 'The Reconnection: Restoring Your Iman Network'.

Kem Ibadah is an annual religious camp held in the United Kingdom organised by BruROSA for Bruneian students in the United Kingdom and Ireland. The main objective of this camp is to motivate the students to strive for success not just in their academic studies but also in the understanding of the religion.

A total of 74 students including the BruROSA members were gathered at Brunei Hall, London. The opening ceremony was held on 16th of November, where Her Excellency, Pengiran Hajah Rooslina Weti binti Pengiran Haji Kamaludin, the High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland attended as the guest of honour.



*Activities at Hyde Park, London*



*Group photo :)*

The chairpersons for this year's Kem Ibadah is Mohamad Harith Syafiq Bin Mohammad Halim from University of Nottingham and 'Afifah Binti Haji Mat Dani from University of Bath. Muhammad Aqil Bin Awang and Nur Arina Binti Haji Hamidun from Cardiff University are the camp commandants for the male participants and the female participants respectively.

The event began with the recitation of surah An Nisa verses 36-38 by Ahmad Zakwan Bin Haji Mohd Salleh from Imperial College London followed by the translation by Abdul Halim Bin Anuar from Loughborough University.





The highlight of the day was the amazing race which took place at Hyde Park where groups of participants compete in various games. The rest of the day was filled with meaningful indoor activities including ice breaking sessions and quiz on Islamic Events.

On 17th November 2019, participants gathered at the prayer hall for their Subuh prayer and later on had a small forum and a feedback session between the organisers and the participants.

The chairpersons and camp commandants gave their farewell speeches and held a small gift exchange between all participants.

Nur Shahirah Binti Haji Bakar from University of Edinburgh representing the female participants mentioned "I have learned about how ukhuwah can be very rewarding to ourselves if it is Lillahi Taala. Friends can be the ones who can help bring ourselves to Jannah. It is our responsibility to take care of each other and remind each other of Allah." in her speech at the closing ceremony.



## BRUNEI SOUTHAMPTON SOCIETY HOLDS 'QURAN MEMORISATION COMPETITION'

The Brunei Southampton Society (BruSton) had recently held its first flagship event, a Quran memorization competition on Sunday, 24th November 2019 at University of Southampton.

A total number of 45 people attended the event, with 10 students attending as participants. The society had Her Excellency, Pengiran Hajah Rooslina Weti binti Pengiran Haji Kamaludin, the High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland as the Guest of Honour. The event also invited guests from Brunei Students' Unit and Brunei Darussalam High Commissioner in the United Kingdom & Eire officers.







The event began with opening remarks by Brunei Southampton Society's President, Muhammad Zaeem bin Haji Abdul Majid and then the Guest of Honour, Pengiran Hajah Rooslina Weti binti Pengiran Haji Kamaludin. Here, she touched on the importance of practicing the Holy Al Quran especially among the youth.

This was followed by a recitation of Surah Al-Ankabut, verse 47 to 49 by Muhammad Zaeem and the translation by Ahmad Darwisy ar-Rayyan bin Hamdan from University of Southampton.



The competition started with Category A, Surah Lazim Memorization's participants followed by Category B, Surah Yasin Memorization. The winners of Category A were Muhammad Fikri bin Haji Ali from Brunei Southampton Society and Amiratul Iffah binti Mohd Idres from Brunei Bath Society. Winners of Category B were Ahmad Zakwan bin Haji Mohd Salleh from Imperial College Union Bruneian Society and 'Aiffah binti Haji Mat Dani from Brunei Bath Society.

The event ended with prize presentations to winners and participants by Brunei Southampton Society's president, Muhammad Zaeem and the Guest of Honour, Her Excellency, Pengiran Hajah Rooslina Weti binti Pengiran Haji Kamaludin. The event also presented tokens of appreciation to the Guest of Honour and the judges.

## BRUSCA AND BRUSWANS COLLABORATED IN HOSTING FIRST EVER COMIC LAH!

Comic Lah is a flagship event organised by Brunei Student Society Cardiff (BruSCA) and Brunei Swansea Society (BruSwans) that allows students to create their own comic based on a category on theme

There were 3 categories offered: Category A was picture-based only, Category B was picture and drawing-based and Category C was drawing-based only. In addition there are 4 themes available to be chosen from: Funny scenario with a life lesson, Overcoming mental health, University life, Parodies

Registration started on 19th Nov 2019 and winners were announced on 15th Jan 2020

**BRUSCA AND BRUSWANS PROUDLY PRESENTS...**

# COMIC LAH!

AND SUPPORTED BY...

**CREATE YOUR OWN COMIC BASED ON THE THEME AND CATEGORY OF YOUR CHOOSING**

**3 CATEGORIES TO JOIN:**  
 CATEGORY A: PICTURE-BASED COMICS ONLY  
 CATEGORY B: PICTURE AND DRAWING BASED COMICS  
 CATEGORY C: DRAWING-BASED COMICS ONLY

**REGISTRATION FEE:**  
 £3 PER CATEGORY PER PERSON  
 £5 FOR TWO CATEGORIES PER PERSON

**EACH INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP CAN JOIN UP TO A MAXIMUM OF TWO CATEGORIES**

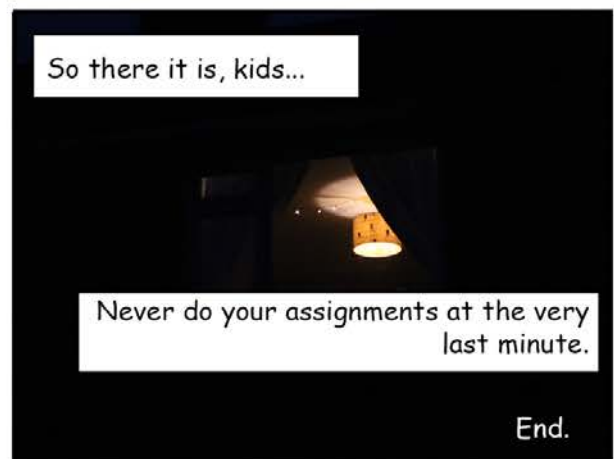
**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! CLOSES ON 28/11**

**MORE DETAILS ON IS @BRUSCARDIFF OR @BRUSWANSOCIETY**

**CONTACT ARINA +673 899 6265 OR AMIR +673 867 5675**

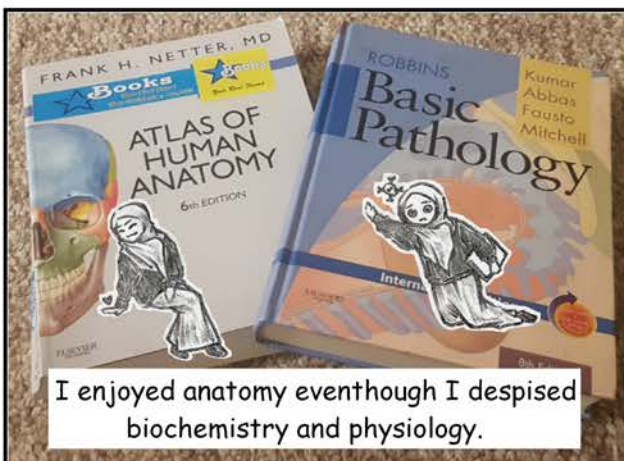
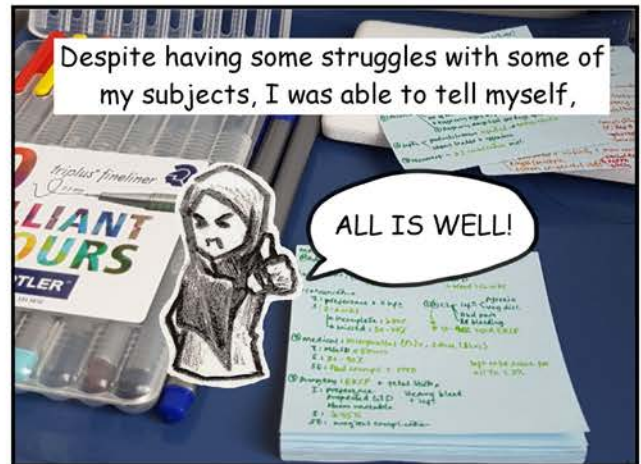


## Winner for Category A: "Sorry Last Minute" by Zaeem!





## Winner for Category B: "Stronger!" by VC13





Sadly, All I could remember was crying myself to sleep every night



I laughed with her,



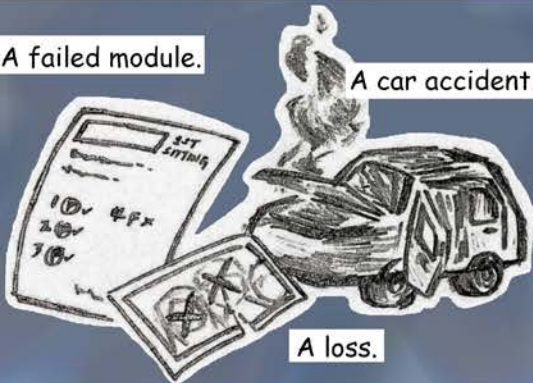
Played in the snow with her,

And shared a bed during her visit.

One by one, everything started to crash down.

A failed module.

A car accident.



A loss.

2 days after, she left a text.



I am not continuing the course.

Why?

How did I missed out the signs?

Still, I told myself

All is well.



I started hating and blaming myself for all the misfortunes happening around me.



Unfortunately, it doesn't stop there.

A friend - smart, diligent and kind hearted one



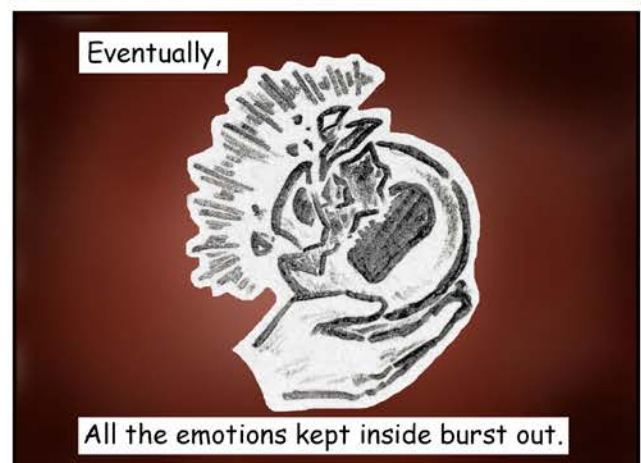
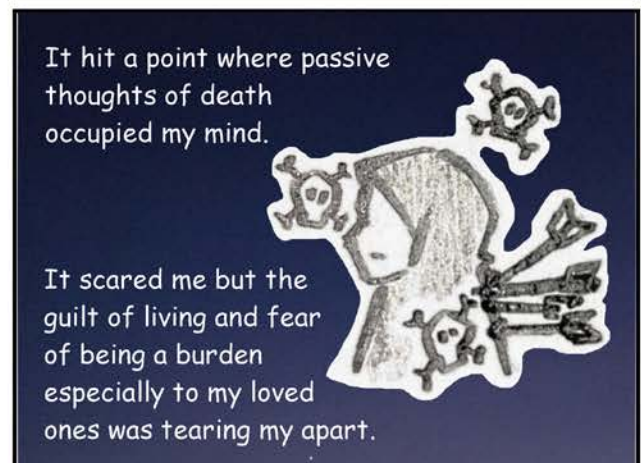
Was struggling without me realising it.

It sounds silly but sometimes,



How the mind works is just beyond our understanding.







Don't be afraid of what others will judge  
and say about you. Your struggles are



And no one is allowed to make you feel  
worthless because of them.

You are who you are.



Those who stand by you are those who  
you have been waiting for your whole life.

Be grateful and don't forget what  
you have been through.



The mistakes,  
and regrets,



Are lessons and our source of growth.

Life is not always smooth,



And, you will fall down again.

But, don't worry!  
You will find the courage once again,



And stand up tall and proud.

In the end, don't forget.  
Hey, you are **STRONGER** than you think!



The pain and sadness won't last forever.



## Winner for Category C: "Wan and Friends" by Takamido

### CH1: SEMESTER HAS ENDED



### CH2: SLEEPING IS SO GOOD...





ARGH I'M *DONE!!*

OKIE~

HA-NEE

HA-NEE, I'M LEAVING THAT SLEEPYHEAD IN YOUR HANDS



ANYWAY, WE'RE GOING FIRST!

YOU BETTER BE THERE ON TIME! NO EXCUSES!

TSK.

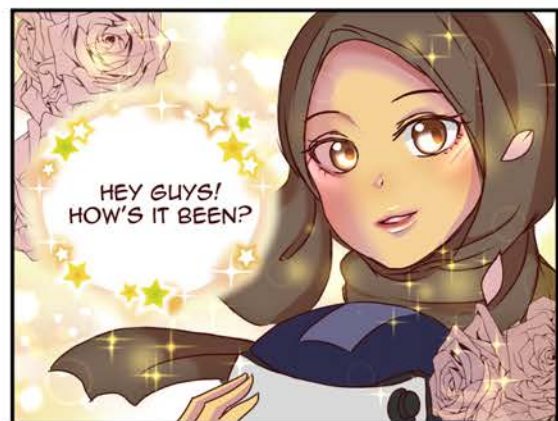




## CH5: JOBLESS



## CH6: THE COOL CHARACTER





CH7: NO ONE COULD STAND A CHANCE



A/N: NOOR (COMMON NAME) MEANS "LIGHT" IN ARABIC

CH8: A... SCARY CHARACTER...



A/N: KA - MALAY TERM TO ADDRESS A FEMALE PERSON OLDER THAN YOURSELF



## CH9: NEW YEAR RESOLUTION



## CH10: REMEMBER THE GOOD MEMORIES





# BRUMANCH HOST FIRST EVER CREATE. PNG 2020

Brunei Manchester Society (BruManch) has created a brand new flagship for this academic year entitled "CREATE.png" This new flagship event is a design competition whereby each year the designs of objects/merchandise will differ, such as designs for tote bags, bottles and caps.

This year we have chosen for the competition to be based around designs for enamel pins. We have also challenged participants to create a design based around Climate Change Awareness and Brunei Darussalam.

The winning design for the first ever CREATE.png is designed by Redhuan Amir, his design is "The depiction of Brunei's land 'melting' due to a rise in global temperatures caused by Climate Change. There are 55 'stars', 35 for Brunei's Vision 2035 and 20 for the number of years left till climate change is inevitable. This indicates the short time we have to fix this issue."

His winning design will then be manufactured into an enamel pin and these pins will be available for purchase to raise Climate Change Awareness, as well as that, a portion of the profit from the sales of enamel pins will be donated to the charity organisation BruWILD, a non government organization who are dedicated in protecting and conserving the biodiversity through education and action. This Flagship event aims to challenge students to step out of their comfort zone, try something new and design to make a difference.



Poster for BruManch  
create.png



# BRUNEI STUDENTS' UNION HOST BIGGEST EVER 'UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE'

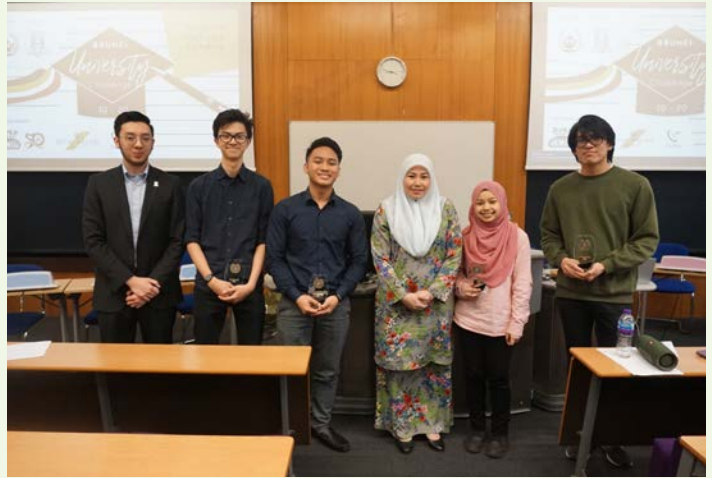
The Brunei Students' Union in the United Kingdom and Eire (BSUnion) hosted the 'Brunei University Challenge 2020' at The Royal School of Mines, Imperial College London on Saturday, 29th February 2020.

A total of 13 teams, consisting of 4 students per team, participated in the event. The event showcased these teams competing against each other in the battle of intelligence and knowledge to see which team will rise to the top. The morning session saw the preliminary rounds, whereas the quarter final, semi-final and final rounds were held in the afternoon. The questions asked were difficult and challenging, with a wide range of topics including humanities, science and knowledge on Brunei.

In attendance to spectate the semi-finals and the finals were the guest of honour, Her Excellency Pengiran Hajah Rooslina Weti binti Pengiran Haji Kamaludin, The High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the United Kingdom, along with officers from the High Commission of Brunei Darussalam to the United Kingdom, The Brunei Students' Unit, and students from different universities in the United Kingdom.



*The champions: Kurapak Kampung Kitani*



*The runner-up: Artificial Intelligence*



Before the semi-final rounds began, Dayangku Nurin Nabeelah binti Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar, The Vice President for Administration and Finance of The Brunei Students' Union in the United Kingdom and Eire gave her speech, congratulating all the teams who participated and making the event the most participated Brunei University Challenge since it was introduced.

Each team played incredibly, showing off their world knowledge and impressing the audience with rarely known facts. Two teams battled for the title of champion in the final round; 'Kurapak Kampung Kitani' and 'Artificial Intelligence'. In the end, 'Kurapak Kampung Kitani' brought the trophies home.



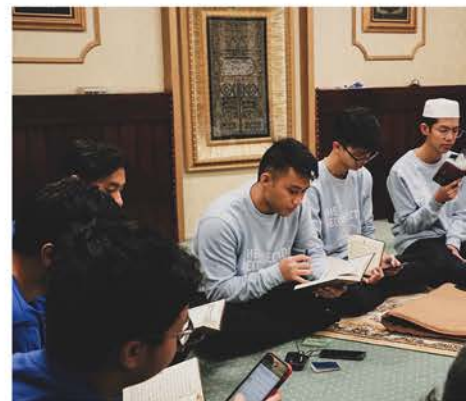


The guest of honour, Her Excellency Pengiran Hajah Rooslina Weti binti Pengiran Haji Kamaludin, The High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the United Kingdom, was then invited to award prizes for the champions, Kurapak Kampung Kitani, and the runner-up, Artificial Intelligence, and also handed out certificates to all the teams who participated in the event. The event ended with a group photo session and refreshments served at Brunei Hall, London. The Brunei University Challenge is sponsored by Brunei LNG Sdn Bhd (BLNG), Royal Brunei Airlines and Findlay.

## *MORE PHOTOS FROM THE EVENT*







# WHAT IS HALAL WHAT IS NOT HALAL?

## 1. What is Halal?

Stated in a book by Al-Imam Ar-Razi, for food to be in "halal" condition is first the food itself must not be physically detestable such as containing dead animals, alcohol, pork and blood. The second condition is that the food should not be unlawfully acquired, for example stolen food.

Halal consumption is emphasized frequently in the Quraan and hence is obligatory for every muslim to avoid food that is not halal. Disobeying the dietary laws of Islam would put oneself into harm i.e his good deeds in this world would not be accepted and he would be refused to enter the Paradise in the hereafter.

From Hadith,

طَلَبُ الْحَلَالِ وَاجِبٌ عَلَى كُلِّ مُسْلِمٍ

*Hazrat Anas (May Allah be pleased with him) narrates that the Holy Prophet said, "Seeking Halaal is a duty binding on every Muslim."*



## 2. What is “Halalan Thayyiban”?

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ كُلُوا مِمَّا فِي الْأَرْضِ حَلَالًا  
طَيِّبًا وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ  
عَدُوٌّ مُبِينٌ

*“O mankind eat from the earth that which is permissible and good and do not follow the footsteps of the Satan. Indeed he is for you an open enemy”. (Quran – Chapter 2, Verse 168)*

While “Halalan” means permissible to be eaten, “Thayyiban” simply suggests that the food is clean and harmless to the eater. Overall, food that is defined as “Halalan Thayyiban” is:

- o Not prohibited as stated in the Quraan or Hadith.
- o Animals should be slaughtered in a correct islamic way.
- o Food should not harm the eater physically or mentally.
- o Not physically detestable.
- o Not najis or containing 'najis'.
- o No obscurity on its Halalness. (syubhah)
- o Lawfully acquired

## 3. What is “Syubhah”?

On the authority of Abu 'Abdullah, Al-Nu'man Ibn Bashir both, who said : 'I heard Allah's Messenger say: "The Halal (lawful) is clear and the Haram (prohibited) is clear, and in between them there are some things that are doubtful ,which most people do not know - if they are Halal or Haram - Thus ,whoever avoids the doubtful, safeguards his religion and honor, but one who engages in the doubtful, falls in the Haram."

This Hadith explains that it is compulsory for us to avoid consuming food which we are doubtful on whether it is halal or not. Hence it is necessary to be careful when looking for halal products, especially now that there is a rising case of false halal labelling and such

رُوي عَنْ أُمِّ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ أُخْتِ شَدَّادِ بْنِ أَوْسٍ أَنَّهَا بَعَثَتْ إِلَى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ بِقَدَحٍ مِنْ لَبَنٍ فِي شِدَّةِ الْحَرِّ عِنْدَ فِطْرِهِ وَهُوَ صَائِمٌ فَرَدَّهُ الرَّسُولُ إِلَيْهَا وَقَالَ مِنْ أَيْنَ لَكَ هَذَا؟ فَقَالَتْ مِنْ شَاةٍ لِي، ثُمَّ رَدَّهُ وَقَالَ: مِنْ أَيْنَ هَذِهِ الشَّاةُ؟ فَقَالَتْ اشْتَرَيْتُهَا بِمَالِي فَأَخَذَهُ. ثُمَّ إِنَّهَا جَاءَتْهُ وَقَالَتْ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ لِمَ رَدَدْتَهُ؟ فَقَالَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ بِذَلِكَ أُمِرْتُ الرُّسُلُ أَنْ لَا يَأْكُلُوا إِلَّا طَيِّبًا وَلَا يَعْمَلُوا إِلَّا صَالِحًا.

*Ummi Abdillah sent some milk to the Prophet SAW after a long hot day. He sent it back asking where did you get the goat from? She said I bought it with my money. So he drank it. When she asked o Messenger of Allah,I sent this milk to you because of the long hot day... Why did you enquire so much about it? He said, I was given the same command as the Prophets before me - that I should not eat except what is pure and not do except what is righteous*



## 4. Alcohol in food

When looking for halal food, especially in the UK, people tend to look for vegetarian or vegan products. However, while vegan food is free from meat, it would still be wise to check the ingredients as it may contain alcohol. As for vegetarian products, sometimes alcohol is used in them. Some medicine may also contain alcohol. (eg ethanol in cough syrup). Some common alcohol found in most food includes red wine vinegar and grain alcohol.

*"Satan wants only to excite enmity and hatred between you with intoxicants (alcoholic drinks) and gambling, and hinder you from the remembrance of God and from the prayer. So, will you not then abstain?" (Quran 5:91)*

## 5. Why does it have to be halal?

Duas of those who consume haram are not accepted, The Prophet has also explained that eating halal is the reason why our duas and ibadah are answered.

يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، ادْعُ اللَّهَ أَنْ يُجْعَلَ لِي مُسْتَجَابَ الدَّعْوَةِ، فَقَالَ لَهُ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: يَا سَعْدُ أَطْبَاطُ مَطْعَمَكَ تَكُنْ مُسْتَجَابَ الدَّعْوَةِ، وَالَّذِي نَفْسُ مُحَمَّدٍ بِيَدِهِ، إِنَّ الْعَبْدَ لَيَقْذِفُ اللَّقْمَةَ الْحَرَامَ فِي جَوْفِهِ مَا يُتَقَبَّلُ مِنْهُ عَمَلٌ أَرْبَعِينَ يَوْمًا، وَإِنَّمَا عَبْدٌ نَبَتْ لَحْمُهُ مِنَ الشُّحْتِ وَالرِّبَا فَالنَّارُ أَوْلَى بِهِ

(رواه الطبراني)

Hadhrat `Abdullaah ibn `Abbaas narrates, "The following Ayah (Verse) was recited in the presence of Rasulullaah SAW: "O mankind! Eat from that in the earth which is Halaal (permissible) and Tayyib (good; wholesome)..." Hadhrat Sa`d ibn Abi Waqqaas stood up and said, "Ya Rasoolallaah! Make Du`a that Allaah makes me from those who are Mustajaab-ud-Da`wah (those whose Du`as are always answered instantaneously)." Nabi SAW said to him, "O Sa`d! Make your food Tayyib (i.e. let your food be Halaal and Tayyib and let your income be Halaal and Tayyib), and you will be Mustajaab-ud-Da`wah. By the One in Whose Hand is the life of Muhammad! A slave (of Allaah) puts a morsel of Haraam (prohibited) food into his stomach, and as a result of that, his good deeds are not accepted for 40 days! And, any slave whose flesh has been nourished on Haraam and on Riba (interest), then the fire (of Jahan-nam) is more suitable for him." [Narrated by Imaam at-Tabraani in al-Mu`jam al-Awsat, and by Imaam ibn Katheer in his Tafseer.]

Those who eat halal are promised paradise while those eating haram will be thrown to hell as narrated in these hadiths:



مَنْ أَكَلَ طَيِّبًا وَعَمِلَ فِي سُنَّةٍ وَأَمِنَ النَّاسُ بِوَائِقِهِ دَخَلَ الْجَنَّةَ

(رواه الحاكم)

Abu Sa'eed Al-Khudri reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, said, "Whoever eats lawful food, works according to the Sunnah, and the people are safe from his evil; then he will enter Paradise."

فَإِنَّهُ لَا يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ لَحْمٌ نَبَتَ مِنْ سُحْتٍ فَالنَّارُ أَوْلَى بِهِ

( رواه أحمد )

Jabir RA reported, Allah's Messenger PBUH said, "That flesh will not enter Paradise which has grown from Haram, and all that flesh which has grown from Haram, the fire (of hell) is more worthy of it."  
(Ahmed, Darimi, Baihaqi).



## BRU ROSA COMMITTEE 2019/2020



Content made by:

Brunei Religious Officers Student Association (BruROSA)



# STILL THINKING OF USING PLASTIC? HOLD THAT THOUGHT.

Plastic production has been a growing concern over the past few decades and remains a global issue to this date. Its nature of it being long-lasting and low-cost has undeniably won the eyes of many different industries to still be using this product. However, one of the major drawbacks it has is the impact it brings to the environment. In a year, plastic production can rise up to 300 million tonnes globally and about 50% are only used once before discarded (Xanthos and Walker 2017). This material in nature is non-biodegradable or non-compostable and can last up to hundreds and thousands of years on Earth. As such, about 75% of litters in the oceans are plastics and approximately about 5 million tonnes of plastic waste enter the seas annually (Thompson 2017). Plastic debris has been increasing in aquatic ecosystems and this causes a threat to marine lives and indirectly affect humans through the consumption of commercial species such as fish and shellfish. It poisons our food chain by entering the diet of aquatic life. It was also stated that, plastics are found in seas as deep as 3,500 m in depths (Thompson 2017). This shows the massive amount of plastic production and its mismanagement has reached even to the remote places on Earth.



In addition to this, more than 200 species of marine animals including seabirds, jellyfish and turtles have consumed plastics (Savoca et al. 2016). This is because animals are not able to differentiate plastics and end up ingesting it. Plastics having no nutritional value and it will only cause the organisms to satiate temporarily and eventually starve themselves to death and end up washed up on beaches (Katsanavakis 2008). There is also the problem of entanglement with plastics; there are evident studies showing the distress of animals being tangled with abandoned fishing nets and ropes, resulting in high mortality and hence, the decrease in biodiversity (Stafford and Jones 2019). Not only will this lead to the loss of biodiversity but the high rates of species extinction as well. This will create a huge problem as marine animals play a huge role in the aquatic ecosystem such as creating opportunities for tourism, providing food and balancing biodiversity.







## So what are the alternatives?

The idea of 3Rs has been circulating for decades. Of all the 3Rs, recycling has definitely been practiced more in compared to reusing and reducing. Although recycling is one of the important concepts in decreasing the environmental impact, but only 9% of plastic are recycled (Parker 2018). The rest are thrown into landfills, incinerate releasing poisonous chemicals into the atmosphere and this will affect the health of humans and other organisms. However, recycling is in fact the bottom in the waste hierarchy. It has shown that, most plastics are cheaper to be produced rather than recycled and there are only certain types of plastics that can be recycled (Sedaghat 2018). There is also the issue that further recycling plastic will only degrade the quality of the product (Sedaghat 2018). So what are the alternatives?

**1. Refuse** – Learn to say NO and think twice: Do I need it? Refuse plastic packaging, single-use plastic and unnecessary freebies. A switch from buying packaged products such as individually wrapped vegetables to your local farmers or to 'Unboxed Stores' that provide the same products but with zero packaging. Often it only requires you to bring your own jar or container. This will help in reducing the demand for plastic packaging and you'll be supporting your own local farmers rather than buying imported vegetables, hence further reducing carbon emissions footprints.

Tip: Always carry an extra bag with you in case of a last minute grocery shopping trip and bring your own Tupperware for takeouts.

**2. Reduce** – Buy less and reduce to only what you need by selling or donating to local charities. Look for goods with low or no packaging at all. Clothing stores such as Zara offers clothing bins where you can recycle your unwanted clothing to be donated to charities such as British Red Cross. H&M also offers £5 vouchers if you drop in a bag of clothes to be recycled. By recycling your unwanted clothes, it can help in maximizing its value and help in reducing the amount of clothing thrown into landfills.





**3. Reuse** – Avoid using single-use plastic or disposable items. A small and easy action such as skipping the plastic straw for your bubble tea and finding an alternative by using metal, bamboo or glass straws will definitely make a difference. You can also reuse your current plastic straw rather than disposing it after only using it once. Some examples of reusable items are; using tote bags for groceries, reusable makeup pads, bringing your bottle flask everywhere, and bringing and reusing your plastic cutleries. You can also buy second hand clothing from thrift shops or other second hand items from charity shops such as OxFam.



**4. Repurpose** – Items that can't be used for its purpose anymore can be used for other purposes. For example, used mason jar can be used as stationary holders or a storage for your spices, glass or plastic bottles used as vases for flowers or leftover lemon peels as an all-purpose cleaner.



**5. Recycle** – Recycle remains as the last option under the waste hierarchy. Try to recycle as much items as you can as long as the item is recyclable. This will decrease the chances of it being thrown into landfills and harming the environment.





## Progress towards a greener environment?

Steps have been taken by organisations and governments in combating this issue. A survey conducted by the Ministry of Development in Brunei has shown that the usage of plastic bags can reach up to 8000 in one supermarket in just two weekends and as an initiative, the government has launched 'No Plastic Day' for the weekends (Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation 2011). The UK government has also introduced the charge of 5 pence per plastic bag in 2016 and this has resulted in a decrease in the usage of plastic bags by 6 billion in just one year. (United Kingdom Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs 2015).

However, activities such as beach and river cleanups and plogging (jogging and picking up litter) will only remain as a temporary solution if the people's mindset remains indifferent on the idea of consuming plastics. There is a need in changing the mindset of society especially the youth to help in resolving this issue. The youth are future leaders and the changes they make will shape the world, if not, the country. Hence, it is necessary to educate the youth from an early stage by introducing environmental and conservation lessons. Thus, a study done by Hartley et al. in 2015, has proven that school children in the UK have improved their understanding and are able to grasp the concept of the harmful effects of plastic by learning about the environment in school and at an early age. (Hartley, Thompson and Paul 2015).

Long-term solutions can only be accomplished if we change the way we use and produce plastic. The problem with plastic material is not its use but rather the method of producing and disposing it. Despite the problem of plastic pollution, there are also other major concerning issues that need to be dealt with such as burning fossil fuels and exploitation of natural resources. However, by attempting to resolve this visual problem of plastic pollution, it might indirectly help in combating a number of other concurrent issues.

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Brunei Religious Officers Student Association  
(BruROSA)  
Brunei Postgraduate Society (BPS)  
All Bruneian Societies in the United Kingdom  
and Eire

## Special Thanks to:

Michael Shie  
Dk Hanifah binti Pg Haji Nor Jaidi  
Zakirah Syakirah binti Haji Abdul Rahman  
Nur 'Afifah binti Haji Arbaie  
Ak Liyaqat Zhahierul Haq bin Pg Hj Zulkarnain  
Nureen Farahhanis Salam binti Affandi





